

In Loving Memory of
Henny Witten



September 20, 1926 to January 2, 2021

On January 2, 2021, our Lord called our mother, Henny Witten home; the same day he called her dear husband home, 31 years earlier.

Henny was born on September 20, 1926, on a farm in Avereest, Overijssel, in the Netherlands, the second oldest of six children. Her schooling was limited to the mandatory 7 years of primary education, plus another year to also get her to the mandatory age 13. After school she learned how to sew and began working in a store.

In 1943, when 17, she lost her father in a tragic accident, leaving her and her siblings taking on new roles, supporting mother. It was not long after, that Egbert Jan was in the picture. Any ideas of marriage, however, had to wait when Egbert was called into military service in Indonesia. They were married in 1951. Plans to move to Canada were delayed by the birth of their first child in 1952, but not by the birth of their second child, who was 3 months old when they left for Canada in May 1953.

They settled on a dairy farm just north of Edmonton, hoping to eventually purchase their own. Low farm wages led to a move to the city, where they remained to raise seven children - five sons followed by two daughters. Life was busy for Henny, especially when Egbert worked two jobs. Her sewing skills were put to good use, not only making new clothes but also constantly patching the knees in the boy's jeans. Despite the challenge, a clean home was also a priority.

They purchased their first home in 1957; a small 4 room house that ultimately could not contain 7 growing children. In 1967 they purchased a nice 3-bedroom bungalow in Beverly.

Henny and Egbert were devoted members of the Maranatha Christian Reformed Church. Fostering faith and Bible knowledge was central in their home. Busy as early family life was, Henny diligently sat down many evenings, books on the table, writing an "essay" for a "Dutch" Ladies Society meeting. Later she enjoyed many years helping with the Children's Clubs mission project in a low-cost housing area in Beverly.

As her children married, the arrival of grandchildren and sharing in their growing up was a delight for her, especially after her husband passed away suddenly in 1990. They filled her life with smiles as she did theirs. Until a short time ago, her house and then new condominium, with a social room, remained the family social get-together place.

Mom, grandma, and great grandma will be missed, for each of us in a special way, in a unique relationship, at different stages of vitality and health. She will also be missed by her brother and sisters, for whom she always was an older sister.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

January, 16, 2021

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church

Officiating Clarence Witten

Pianist: David Witten

Vocalists: Laura Witten and Karen Dyck

Welcome and prayer

“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

Romans 8:15-16; 35-39

“He leadeth me”

Psalm 121

“What a friend we have in Jesus”

Psalm 103:8-18

Eulogy: Don Witten

Sharing memories

Slide Presentation

“Nearer, still nearer”

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42, Revelation 19:6-9

Message: “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus”

“My Jesus I love Thee”

Closing prayer: Ralph Witten

“Abide with me”

Pallbearers

Ralph Witten, Don Witten, Ed Witten, Clarence Witten,
Grace Witten, Hetty Emmerzael, and Joyce de Ruiter Kremers

Henny, a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother is fondly remembered by her family:

Grace Witten (Ardrossan, Alberta)

Melanie and Harold Aas: Benjamin, Ayana (Trondheim, Norway)

Jayne and Ryan Newell: Kaitlyn, Ava (Stony Plain, Alberta)

Cam Land: Nova, Amadeus (Sherwood Park, Alberta)

Ralph and Liz Witten (Lethbridge, Alberta)

Laura Witten (Lethbridge)

Karen and Matt Dyck: Naomi, Linnea (Sherwood Park, Alberta)

Kevin and Virginia Witten: Cora, Megan (Boerne, Texas)

David Witten (Lethbridge)

Don and Gail Witten (Langley, BC)

Mark and Lauren Witten: Bryden, Isla, Micah (New Westminster, BC)

Michael and Lauren Witten: Isabelle (Langley, BC)

Derek and Meredith Witten: Gabriel (Durham, North Carolina)

Leanne Witten (Vancouver, BC)

Ed and Marilyn Witten (Kimberly, BC)

Amy and Jeremy Hansen: Caleb, Alisha (Cranbrook, BC)

Sara Witten (Edmonton)

Daniel and Kaity Witten (Edmonton)

Clarence and Theresa Witten (Salmon Arm, BC)

Bonnie Witten (Salmon Arm)

Colson Witten (Salmon Arm)

Hetty Emmerzael (Edmonton, Alberta)

Stephanie and Shaun Scade: Neko, Ari, Arlo (Edmonton)

Kristyn Emmerzael and Mazi Javidiani: Guilon (Toronto, Ontario)

David and Lisa Emmerzael (Edmonton)

Breanna and Andy Scholotiuk: Levon (Edmonton)

Joyce de Ruiter Kremers and Rob Kremers (Zuidhorn, Netherlands)

Naomi and Tom Wilcox: Adam, Owen (Groningen, Netherlands)

Nick and Olivia de Ruiter (Edmonton)

Nathaniel and Lindy de Ruiter: Jasper (Edmonton)

Henny's siblings: Clara and Martin Witten, Clarence Smit, Grace and Fred Meyerink, Ali and Albert Bosma

Henny was predeceased by her husband Egbert Jan, son John, son-in-law Bob Emmerzael, granddaughter Julie Witten-Land, grandson Jonathan Emmerzael, granddaughter Angela Witten, sister Jenny Bouwman and brother-in-law Geert Bouwman.